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Which statement is true?

- Children are a great blessing to a marriage.
- Children put a great deal of pressure on a marriage.

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18Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. ²⁰Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

—Colossians 3:18-21 ESV

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Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²"Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³"that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." ⁴Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. —Ephesians 6:1-4 ESV

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⁴Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. —Deuteronomy 6:4-7 ESV

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

2It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for He gives to His beloved sleep. 3Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.

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⁴Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. ⁵Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!

He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate. —Psalm 127

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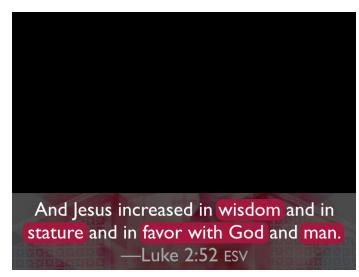
Observations:

1. Children are addressed and instructed within the context of a marriage and family structure in Scripture.

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Observations:

2. Beyond the Scripture's instruction, there is a great and overwhelming crisis in culture regarding the value of children and child-rearing.

- 1. Marriage is a personal union, intended for the whole of life, of husband and wife.
- 2. Marriage is a profound human good, elevating and perfection our social and sexual nature.
- 3. Ordinarily, both men and women who marry are better off as a result.
- 4. Marriage protects and promotes the well-being of children.

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- 5. Marriage sustains civil society and promotes the common good.
- 6. Marriage is a wealth-creating institution, increasing human and social capital.
- 7. When marriage weakens, the equality gap widens, as children suffer from the disadvantages of growing up in homes without committed mothers and fathers.

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- 8. A functioning marriage culture serves to protect political liberty and foster limited government.
- 9. The laws that govern marriage matter significantly.
- 10. "Civil marriage" and "religious marriage" cannot be rigidly or completely divorced from one another. —Witherspoon Institute "Marriage and the Public Good"

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"This understanding of marriage is not narrowly religious... a marriage culture cannot flourish in a society whose primary institutions—universities, courts, legislatures, religions—fall not only to defend marriage but actually undermine it both conceptually and in practice."

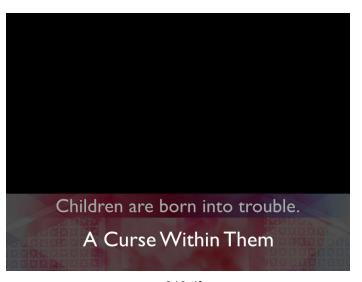
Witherspoon Institute

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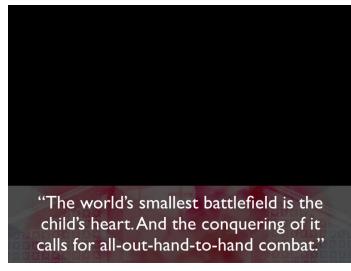
 Marriage matters to children because families shape the future.

The Task of Parenting Can Be Simply Overwhelming

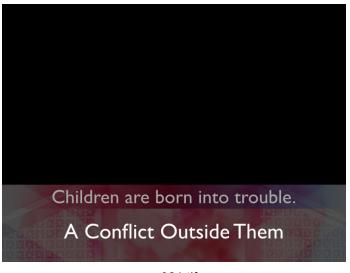
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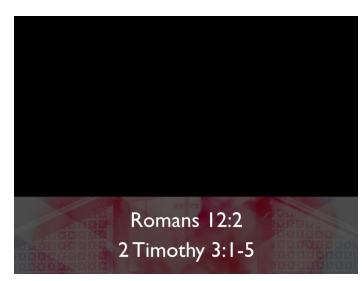
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...do not provoke your children to anger,

but bring them up in the discipline and

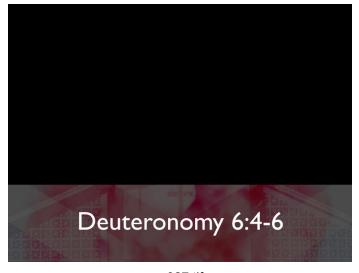
instruction of the Lord.—Ephesians 6:4 ESV



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Children need...

Deliberate Discipline

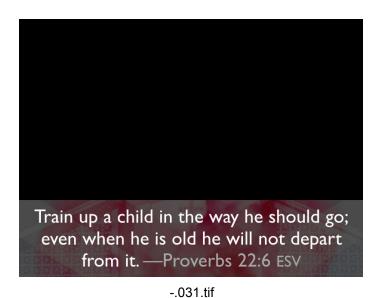
"What happens at home is even more

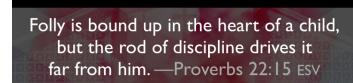
important than what happens here."

Children need...

Decisive Direction

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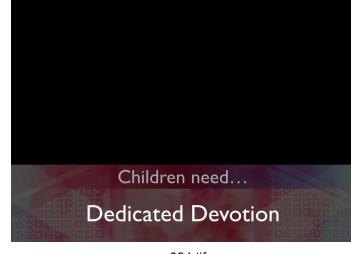


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The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to

-Proverbs 29:15 ESV

himself brings shame to his mother.



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